

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-24. (Canceled).

Kindly add the following new claims:

25 (new): A spark plug comprising:

a central electrode;

an insulating member disposed on the outside of said central electrode;

a main metal shell disposed on the outside of said insulating member; and

a ground electrode disposed opposite to said central electrode such that a spark discharge gap is formed,

wherein the surface of said main metal shell is coated with a chromate film including trivalent chrome.

26 (new): The spark plug according to claim 25, wherein said chromate film contains trivalent chrome by 95 wt% or more of contained chrome components and having a thickness of 0.2 μm to 0.5 μm .

27 (new): The spark plug according to claim 26, wherein said chromate film substantially contains no chrome component.

28 (new): The spark plug according to claim 26, further comprising a ring-shaped gasket to be fitted to the base portion of a joining thread portion formed on the outer surface of said main metal shell;

wherein at least a portion of said gasket is coated with said chromate film.

29 (new): The spark plug according to claim 26, wherein the content of sodium components contained in said chromate film is 2 wt % to 7 wt %.

30 (new): The spark plug according to claim 26, wherein said main metal shell or both of said main metal shell and said gasket are coated with a zinc-plated film has a base metal layer for said chromate film.

31 (new): The spark plug according to claim 26, wherein when chapter five "neutral salt water spray test" of anti-corrosion test of plating conforming to JIS H8502 is performed, time for which white rust appears by about 20% or more of the overall surface caused from corrosion of the zinc-plated film is 40 hours or longer.

32 (new): The spark plug according to claim 26, wherein when heating at 200°C, in the atmosphere for 30 minutes is performed and chapter five "neutral salt water spray test" of anti-corrosion test of plating conforming to JIS H8502 is performed, time for which white rust

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appears by about 20% or more of the overall surface caused from corrosion of the zinc-plated film is 40 hours or longer.